



Editorial: Please use this newsletter

With the news piling up that

- the **IPCC Report Summary for Policy Makers** was **nobbled** to dilute scientific conclusions with political expediency - keeping suicidal options on the table for far too long
- the EU has just consecrated natural gas as a green fuel,
- the US Supreme Court is actively intervening to defend fossil fuel interests,
- the UK Climate Change Committee had to headline its Progress Report **“Current Programmes will not deliver Net Zero”**
- the Conservative leadership crisis pits those who can be forced to adopt placebo policies, so they look as though they are doing something, against the current around Lord Frost that thinks sustainability is for sissies, who reject what they call the “Green Blob” altogether; and will go down with the ship, nailing their Union Jacks to the mast singing “Rule Britannia” as the rising seas close over their heads.

Its more and more apparent that the labour and trade union movement has to step up, not just to get a voice in the green transition, but to try to make sure that we have one at all.

This Newsletter aims to be a tool to help activists do just that. This issue has reports on models of transition bodies in local authorities in the North East and Oxford; and stresses the need for union involvement. Our recent special edition - **getting the union voice heard** - provides activists with a set of questions for local authorities; which local unions can use to begin to get into the room - or even the zoom- where it happens. As the results of the survey of LAs we conducted with the TUC in Yorkshire shows, we are unlikely to be asked in unless we knock on the door first. Please use this material in your union and with others locally, and in your trades council to make a joint approach to your LA. The North East project looks like a good model for engaging and mobilising communities around transition that could be adopted elsewhere, and they are happy to be contacted to discuss how this might be done.

Contents

Editorial

- Use this Newsletter
- Tories go off the rails

Insulation

- TUC - Future proof our schools

Just Transition

- Overcoming Just Transition barriers in the North East
- Unions need consulting on climate policies
- Offshore workers have the solutions for energy transition
- It don't have to be this way
- A zero-carbon construction industry must be inclusive
- Oxford Zero Carbon Partnership

Cop27

- ITUC Advocacy demands just out
- TUC warns of Egyptian Government Greenwash

Union Conference Round Up

- UCU, UNISON, GMB

GJA at Glastonbury

Green Bites

- Car Free July
- STATS & graphic of the month

Quote of the Month

No progressive vision of society can be built on the fossil economy because the fossil economy is death

Gustavo Petro,

Newly elected President of Columbia

We also now have a Debate page on our [Blog](#) which aims to develop our demands, strategy and tactics in unprecedented times, in which “normal life” has to shift if we are to have any life at all sooner than we think. This month we’ve had contributions on why climate campaigners should support the rail strikes, why all climate politics is global, differences in line on transition in the trade union movement and the “polluter pays” principle. There is a response box for comments at the foot of the page and we invite them on all these issues. **Please feel free to get stuck in.**

Paul Atkin

Tories go off the rails

Transport is one of the sectors that has made almost no progress in reducing carbon emissions in the last decade.

The bulk of the emissions comes from fossil fuel transport, mostly cars, but also HGVs, cabs and vans. The contribution made by rail is minute. Just 1.4% of the total (see fig 1.) The carbon emissions of a journey made by rail are so small compared with those from a car or aircraft (see Fig 2) that it should be a simple consensus that we need to both invest at speed and scale on expanding and improving our public transport networks - as recommended in this [briefing from the RMT](#) - and, as an immediate urgent measure, slash public transport fares to tempt people out of cars.

This is not unthinkable. Its being done in Ireland and Italy and, most ambitiously in Germany; which has cut fares by 90% this summer, to 9 Euros for a month’s travel. Imagine the positive impact of that - in all ways - in your city.

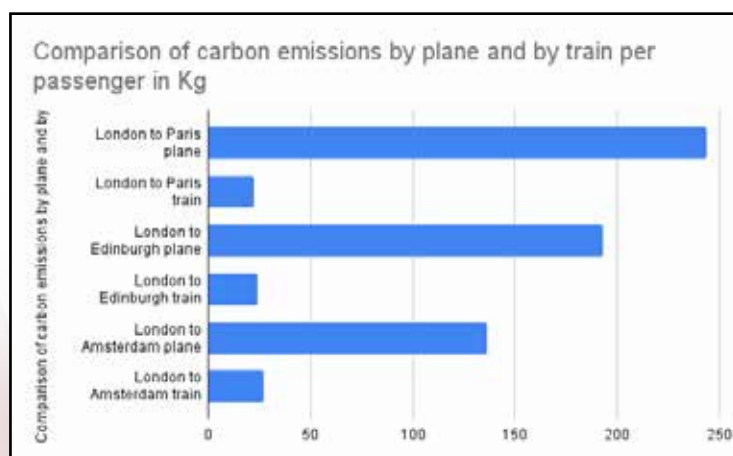
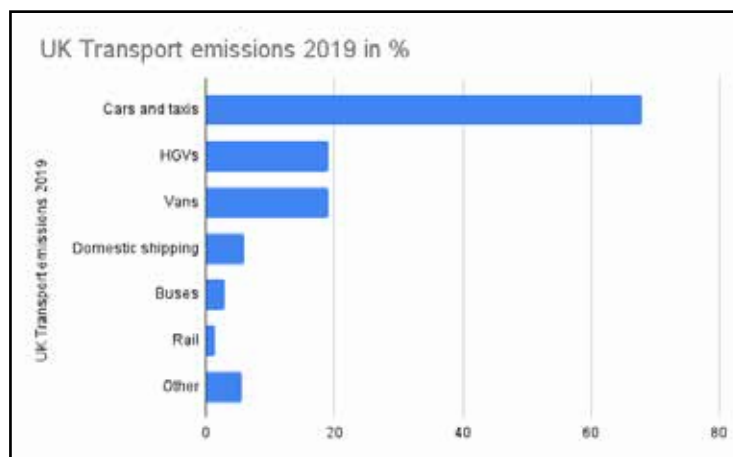


Photo: Sasha Atkin Wasti.
Berlin Travelcard: 9 Euros for a MONTH!
We want parity!

TUC - Our Schools Need Future Proofing

Our kids' schools need future-proofing: this would create 42 thousand jobs, keep classrooms warm in the winter and cool in the summer, help teachers and pupils stay healthy, and save schools money. Government has threatened to pull the scant money available for public retrofit buildings - but we're making the case that retrofits need a much larger, local authority-run programme instead.

Our new briefing - with all major construction and education unions - makes the case for a £12 billion schools retrofits programmes. It also profiles stories of two schools that have taken action to make themselves more sustainable.

Please read and share [the report](#).

Some suggested social media text (please tag @The_TUC on Twitter):

- Our kids & their teachers deserve better than stuffy, sweltering classrooms - **let's future-proof our schools**.
- Unions call for £12bn school retrofits programme - creating 42 thousand good green jobs
- Government has just quietly threatened to pull *all* public building retrofits funding - but we need a huge retrofit programme for our kids' schools
- twitter.com/annatation/status/1544972939887517697

If you - or people you know - work in an education setting, or in construction or local government, get in touch to see how we can take this call to a workplace level! amarkovamminio@tuc.org.uk

Anna Markova

"We urge all unions to forward this to the Climate Leads in their local councils. Ask for a meeting to discuss how they intend to support schools in their efforts to achieve net zero". Ed



Photo: Callum Shaw on Unsplash



Photo: Ben Cherry

Overcoming the barriers to a just transition in the North East

It is all too rare both in the UK and internationally for workers to be consulted on their needs and desires from a just transition. If a transition to a low-carbon economy is going to happen it makes sense for the needs and expertise of those currently employed in the high-carbon sector to drive it.

On that basis, Energy Democracy Project (EDP) are developing a just transition plan for high-carbon workers in the North of Tyne Combined Authority (NTCA). This will identify and engage with workers in high-carbon industries to address the impact on their future employment of a transition to a low-carbon economy. The NTCA covers Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland local authorities. Established in 2018, the combined authority has a Labour mayor, Jamie Driscoll, who was elected on a Green New Deal platform.

We will consult widely to highlight both the skills needed, and the practical barriers preventing, high-carbon workers and professions moving into 'green' and low-carbon sectors.

The just transition is also a chance to improve economic inclusion; making sure under-represented groups are meaningfully considered in the transition away from high-carbon jobs. This means engaging with people who were previously excluded from stable high-carbon jobs, to explore how they can be trained for the sustainable jobs of the future.

The two year project will produce its final report in June 2023; with policy recommendations for the NTCA and stakeholder events.

The report will be based on a mixed-methods approach.

- The stakeholder interviews section is almost complete; we have met with local community groups, trade unions and businesses.
- We are about to launch a quantitative survey to be completed by workers employed in all 'high-carbon' sectors, to create a snapshot of what local people know about economic transition and how it relates to them; such as potential changes to employment, and training opportunities.
- Once the survey is complete, the second round of in-depth stakeholder interviews with both workers and employers will examine the similarities and differences in their understanding and approaches to dealing with the just transition.
- We will also complete a local skills audit, looking at the number of workers currently reliant on the high-carbon economy and what their skills are, establish the skills required in a low-carbon economy, and identify low-carbon skills shortages and opportunities in the region.
- Finally, community workshops this autumn and winter will explore previous findings with workers in greater depth; complemented by workshops focusing on the perspectives of local young people, as workers of the future. This final workshop stage aims to create a space where participants can lead discussions themselves, and begin to identify recommendations for policymakers that we will write up in the report.

Previously the most common UK just transition reports were national-level estimates of the number of jobs that could be created, say, for one renewable energy source. Our project moves beyond such work and focuses on the local and granular detail required to actually help workers move from high-carbon to low- carbon and green sectors, through examining workers' experiences of the barriers preventing them from doing so.

An example of this is a construction worker in their mid-twenties who, when leaving school, and interested in climate issues, wanted to study a sustainable construction course at a FE college relatively near their home. But, as there was no public transport and they couldn't afford to drive, they were unable to do it. This example highlights the problem that public transport is not under the direct control of the NTCA. Creative thinking around planning for problems like this needs to take place and the Mayor and his team can start that once we help to highlight the needs of residents.

In advance of publication, we are exploring an interim recommendation to the combined authority to establish a just transition coordinator role at the NTCA with two main aims:

- to ensure just transition thinking is central to the different departments of the NTCA,
- to establish a just transition taskforce made up of representatives from groups, such as trade unions and education bodies, to work together on coordinated action and long-term plans.

We welcome anyone interested in this project, or with experience of similar work to get in contact with any suggestions or questions. Please email ben@energydemocracyproject.com.

Ben Lennon, Energy Democracy Project Coordinator

Photo: Plessy Street, Blyth, Northumberland, with friendly local wind turbine.

Greener Jobs Alliance Newsletter No:39 July 2022

Unions need consulting on climate policies

The TUC with the help of the Greener Jobs Alliance has published a survey of local authorities to find out whether they have consulted trade unions on climate policies. The survey has gone out to councils in the Yorkshire Region, London Region, Scotland, and Wales. It asked a total of 21 questions covering climate policies, skills, procurement, supply chains, and in-house services.

The results for the London, Scotland and Wales will not be known until August but so far, the returns for Yorkshire do not look good. Yorkshire and Humberside would appear to be one region where a positive response would be expected. The TUC was instrumental in getting the Climate Commission established and the Regional Secretary chairs the Future Economy panel **Yorkshire & Humberside Climate Commission**.

The survey went out to 22 local authorities and councils in the region. The TUC only received replies from 6 – a response rate of 27%. Of these 6 only 2 had engaged with trade unions on their climate emergency plans. This means that less than 10% of the councils in the region had carried out any kind of consultation exercise.

This can't be accepted. It's the reason why the GJA has decided to publish '**Guidance on getting the union voice heard**'. The focus is on retrofit and energy efficiency policies but the principles can be applied to the full range of local authority climate actions.

The guide provides practical steps for trying to ensure that jobs and skills are embedded into climate policies. Union activists wanting to take this forward are given questions to raise as part of a consultation process that must be started without delay if climate justice is going to have any meaning.

In the next newsletter we will provide a full report on the outcomes of all the surveys that have been conducted. Please keep us informed of any progress in getting a union seat at the table in your region or local authority.

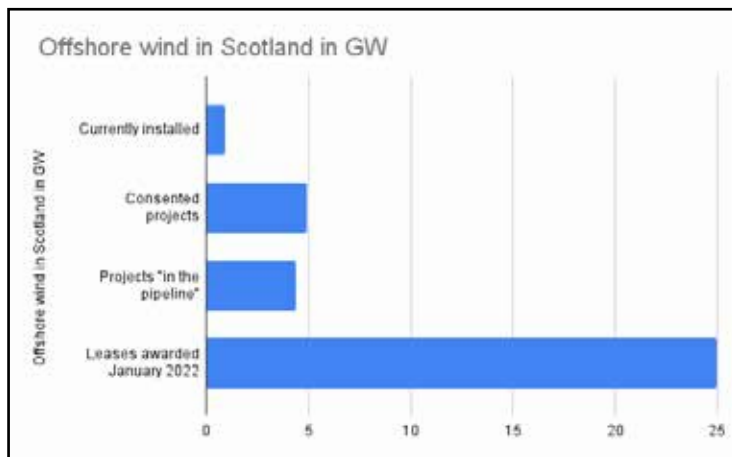
Graham Petersen



New survey tells the same story: Offshore workers have the solutions for energy transition

In April, Gillian Martin MSP (SNP, Aberdeenshire East) published the findings of a survey of 559 offshore oil and gas workers. The report shines a light on workers' perspectives on the energy transition and was followed by a debate in the Scottish Parliament where the Scottish Government Minister for Just Transition responded to questions from Gillian and other MSPs.

The findings of the report closely mirror those highlighted by our 2020 survey of nearly 1,500 offshore workers carried out with Platform and Greenpeace UK. This research demonstrated a real openness to transition if the right policies are in place to support workers. 81% of those surveyed were open to moving out of oil and gas, with a particular interest in renewables and offshore wind.



Rapid acceleration of capacity requires rapid expansion of jobs

Workers in both surveys have spoken about their willingness to transition, but they also highlight the unnecessary barriers they face in making any move. From training and skills where workers can be expected to pay thousands of pounds for closely related qualifications to those they already hold, through to accessing information about jobs in renewables and understanding the compatibility of their existing skills. Workers even report being unable to get to interview when they do apply for renewables work because of perceptions of the fossil fuel industry amongst renewable energy companies.

The Scottish Government recently awarded leases for 25GW of offshore wind capacity - for context, Scotland currently has less than 1GW of offshore wind capacity. The UK Government will also shortly announce the successful bidders in the 4th round of Contracts for Difference. Renewables are set to rise rapidly and anyone who is listening will realise workers are ready and willing to transition away from oil and gas. There is great potential to make strides towards a Just Transition now, but the barriers workers are identifying remain; and there is no clear plan for addressing them by either the Scottish or UK Government.

This may change this year however as the Scottish Government is drafting a new Energy Strategy and a Just Transition Plan for the energy sector. They have committed to a process of co-design involving key stakeholders including workers and their trade unions, environmentalists and community groups. They don't hold all the powers, but the Scottish Government could be doing far more to push the renewables industry to address training and skills issues, supporting public and community ownership of energy to retain benefits and build local supply chains.

After coming out publicly to say the Cambo oil field should not get Westminster approval, the Scottish Government is now tasked with laying out how they will use their powers to rapidly transform our energy system away from fossil fuels in the face of climate breakdown and a soaring cost of living crisis.

Gillian Martin MSP's report is another reminder that workers in the energy sector know and understand their sector better than most. They are prepared to move out of fossil fuels, but right now face needless barriers. After multiple surveys shining a light on the same issues, it is time to see meaningful action by those in power. We must listen to the issues and solutions coming from the workforce and raise them up to those with the power to change the current course. The Scottish Government has the opportunity to ensure workers' voices are heard far louder than those from industry - the new Just Transition Plan will be a test of their rhetoric.

Ryan Morrison - Just Transition Campaigner at Friends of the Earth Scotland

It don't have to be this way

In Alberta, Canada, a week long crash training programme last month for indigenous and former fossil fuel workers, enabled them to start work on converting two Oilfield sites into solar farms. About 10% of the province's estimated 170,000 abandoned wells are suitable for solar development, enabling the use of leftover infrastructure on former well sites as a usable asset, rather than a liability that would be costly to remove.

The training was so brief because, as Iron & Earth Executive Director Luisa Da Silva said, *"If you've worked on an offshore drill rig, you know how to work on an offshore wind turbine. If you've worked in a refinery, you understand how a biofuels plant works. The same welding skills you need to build a wind turbine are the ones you use throughout the oil and gas sector. Everybody who has worked in fossil fuels, has worked in the energy sector, has all the baseline skills to work in the clean energy sector. All they really need is a little bit of training to help them understand how those skills translate."*

Full story [here](#).

A zero-carbon construction industry must be inclusive



Photo: LBI TBB delegates in front of Islington Town Hall

The University of Westminster's Centre for the Study of the Production of the Built Environment hosted a delegation of 50 women from **North American Tradeswomen Building Bridges** between 9-19 June 2022. This is a network of North American women whose vision is to build transnational solidarity among women working in the trades, to learn about the lives and working conditions of tradeswomen in other parts of the world, and to share best practices for women gaining greater access to careers in the trades.

The aim of the delegation was to galvanise support for greater inclusion of women in the construction sector, to express solidarity with women training and working in the industry in and UK and internationally, and build a network with the trade unions to support this. An important consideration was under what circumstances the transition to a green economy is being accompanied by requirements for gender and racial equality in recruitment and employment. A special focus of support was on the redevelopment of the former Holloway Prison in Islington, once the largest women's prison in Europe, for housing (particularly social housing) and a women's building to honour the legacy of the site. Proposals for all the trainees and 30% of those employed to be women have been taken up Islington Council and Peabody, the housing association developer, on what is claimed to be a sustainable and low energy project.

The programme of activities began with a best practices workshop on 9 June when TBB presented four case studies of successful regional strategies in Canada and the United States where the percentage of women in the trades is now equal to or greater than 10%, compared to the abysmal 1% in UK. The event shared strategies for success with UK construction



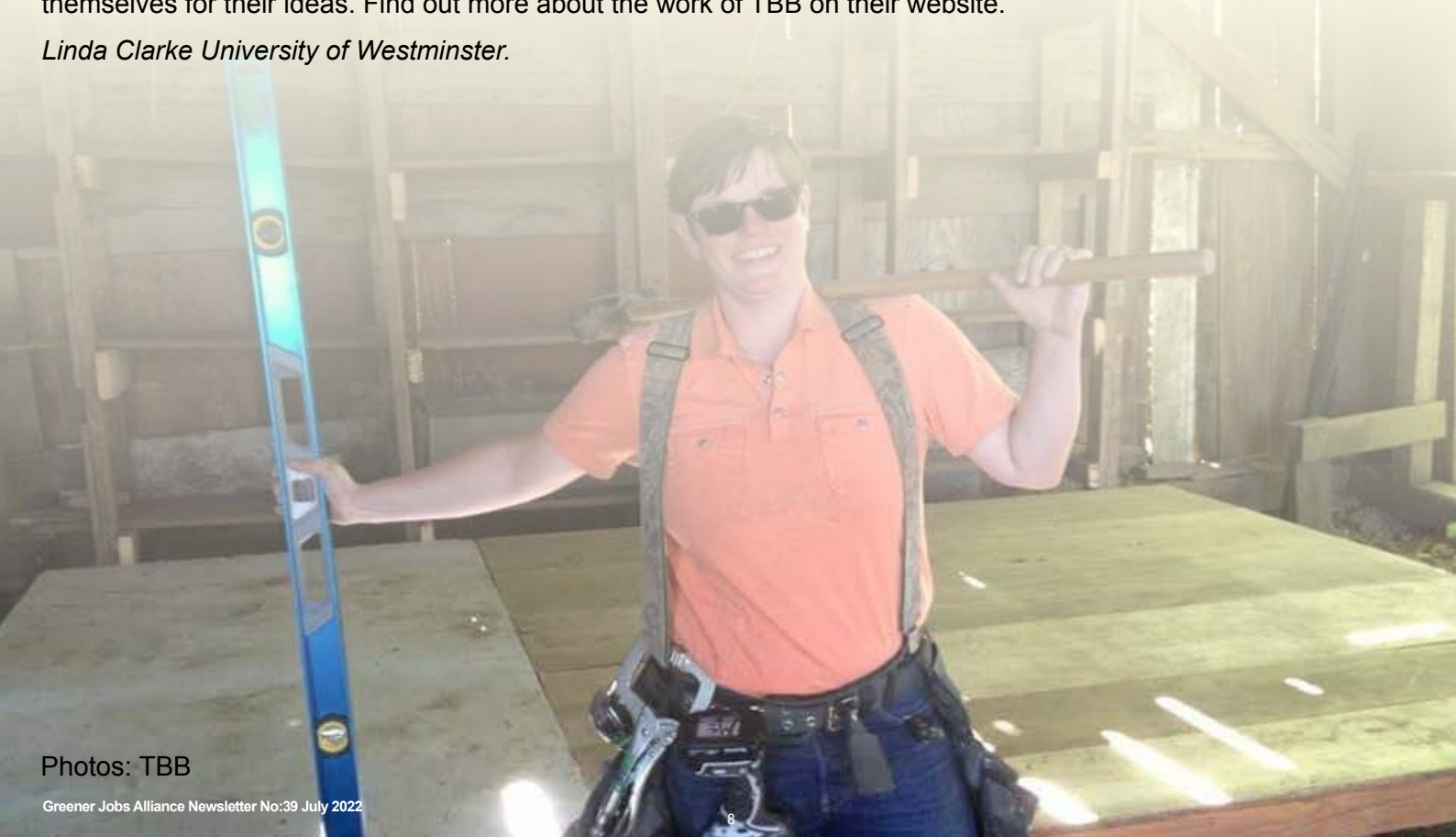
industry stakeholders and gave them an opportunity for discussion and reflection on what might be useful for improving gender diversity in their area of work.

There followed a weekend of activities in Islington with Reclaim Holloway and the campaign around the redevelopment of the Holloway Prison site, including a tour of the site and a community picnic at Caledonian Park in Islington where the delegates met residents, local MP Emily Thornberry and Islington councillors, and spoke about what it is like being a woman in the construction trades. On 13 June Islington Council organised site visits, including to the Kings Cross Construction Skills Centre, and a reception in the town Hall. The University also hosted a research forum on 14 June, sharing cutting-edge research on issues concerning women in construction, in particular procurement, empowerment and green construction, with members of the delegation, UK and Europe-based academics, trade unionists and practitioners.

Some of the highlights of the week's activities were visits to: Thames Tideway's offices, hosted by UK-based Women into Construction; the HS2 development and other construction sites, including UCL's new global research centre for Neuroscience and Dementia; and Further Education Colleges. The culmination was a networking event in the Houses of Parliament hosted by Emily Thornberry MP and the Chartered Institute of Builders (CIOB). This was followed by a weekend of networking with tradeswomen across Europe hosted by Unite the Union.

Public funding for zero-carbon construction has increasingly been tied to equity objectives designed to create more opportunities for under-represented groups. However, construction tradeswomen have rarely been asked to voice their ideas around the knowledge, skills and competencies needed, their understanding of climate change, their experiences in their communities and workplaces, the impact of public policies on gender imbalances in the sector, and whether recruitment and training practices empower women to work in green construction. Many of the women delegates are being interviewed to gather their ideas on these aspects and on how construction can be transformed into a zero-carbon industry. Results so far show just how diverse the impetus for zero carbon construction is in different parts of the world, including within the US, and how important it is to ask workers themselves for their ideas. Find out more about the work of TBB on their website.

Linda Clarke University of Westminster.



Oxford Zero Carbon Partnership

As a city, Oxford has long been at the forefront of environmental action and innovation. In 2019, following its declaration of a climate emergency and the UK's first Citizens' Assembly on Climate Change, Oxford City Council recognised the need to go further and faster than before.

In February 2021, The Zero Carbon Oxford Partnership was established. It brought together representatives from the City and County Councils, both universities, the NHS trusts, major businesses including BMW and Unipart, transport providers, and educational establishments. The partnership represents a shift in approach – focusing strongly on collaborative action.

The Partnership collectively produced a science-based Roadmap and Action Plan which outlines how Oxford can reach net zero carbon emissions by 2040. It leverages the power and influence of city's institutions to make ambitious interventions with both environmental and social benefits. ZCOP partners all contributed to development of the Roadmap, working with Oxford City Council and the Carbon Trust. The action plan cuts across multiple sectors and focuses on projects that require cooperation and coordination between partners - unlocking key measures that would be impossible if working individually.

This partnership approach, alongside other collaborative and innovative projects, has allowed Oxford to accelerate decarbonisation across the city.

The Zero Emission Zone (ZEZ), a partnership project between Oxford City Council and Oxfordshire County Council, is the first of its kind in the UK. The zone is an area where zero emission vehicles can be used without incurring a charge. All other vehicles, including hybrids, will incur a charge if they are driven in the zone at certain times. The ZEZ will encourage the switch to zero emission vehicles and make other positive changes to travel behaviour – reducing carbon and improving air quality. This key part of Oxford's strategy for the development of transport in will operate alongside other core transport schemes, including an active travel programme, a series of traffic filters and a workplace parking levy.

Oxford City Council is also a partner in two national energy innovation projects.

Energy Superhub Oxford is a £41m world-first project which integrates hybrid battery storage, low carbon heating and smart energy management technologies to support Oxford to be zero carbon. As part of the project, the UK's largest public electric vehicle charging hub, including 38 fast and ultra-rapid chargers, opened in July 2022.

Local Energy Oxfordshire is one of the UK's most ambitious energy trials, seeking to accelerate the UK's transition to a zero-carbon energy system. This cross-sector project is building understanding of the technological, market and social conditions needed for a green, flexible and fair electricity system.

Oxford City Council has also recently finished a £11m Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funded project to install heat pumps in the city's leisure centres including a water source heat pump that will power the nearby open air swimming pool. As a further part of the Council's decarbonisation programme, it has invested in Ray Valley Solar which will be the largest community-owned solar park in the UK.

Tom Garood Sustainable City Engagement Officer

NB Although, as yet, ZCOP has no formal union involvement, though the Climate Working Group of the Trades Council and local UNISON branch are kept informed. Union involvement in a "sprint" group focussed on developing skills is under discussion. Ed



Photo: zcop. Energy Superhub Oxford.

COP27 ITUC Advocacy demands just out

Going into COP 27 the ITUC has just put forward 7 key demands.

- 1. Implementation of Just Transition for the Workforce.**
- 2. Guarantee human rights, labour rights and inclusive participation.** The ITUC demands that governments include explicit language on human rights and labour rights protection in their COP27 mandates. We also demand guarantees from the COP27 Presidency and the UNFCCC Secretariat that all parties and observers have access to the negotiations, this includes the processing of visas and access to affordable accommodation, and that all rights are guaranteed at all times for all participants
- 3. Raise mitigation ambition and create quality jobs with just transition.** The ITUC demands governments to explicitly include the need for just transition policies and measures in their mandates for COP27 on the 'work programme to scale up mitigation ambition and implementation'. Governments should include just transition priorities in their submissions on the work programme and include just transition policies and measures on the agenda of the pre-session workshop that is planned.
- 4. Adaptation needs social protection.** The ITUC demands governments to include explicit reference to the need for national plans for comprehensive and universal social protection systems in their mandates for COP27 and in their submissions on the 'Glasgow-Sharm el-Sheikh work programme on the global goal on adaptation'.
- 5. Loss and Damage.** The ITUC demands that at COP27 the 'Glasgow Dialogue on loss and damage' delivers on the creation of a loss and damage finance facility, including details on the way it will be resourced with annual contributions from developed countries based on their "historical responsibilities under the Convention" with clear accountability measures embedded.
- 6. Climate Finance.** The trade union movement demands governments to make progress in good faith with the new goal on climate finance and that incorporate just transition criteria in all climate finance agreements. At COP26, the major donor countries signed a declaration "Supporting the Conditions for a Just Transition Globally" that contains just transition criteria. These need to be referenced in climate finance agreements to be decided at COP27. This language should be included in the work on the 'New Collective Quantified Goal on Climate Finance'.
- 7. Just Transition in Response measures.** Governments must prepare to seriously increase the efficiency of the work delivered under the Response Measures.

The social partners (employers and worker organisations) require a formal place in the work on Response Measures when just transition issues are discussed.

The Paris Agreement refers to decent work and quality jobs in its definition of just transition; this implies that representatives of the key economic actors involved (governments and representative workers and employer bodies) should be at the table in the national, sectoral and global negotiations.

If we are to ensure that the depth and pace of transition is sufficient to deliver the change we need to save the planet in the time, then we need a very different architecture and a very different set of rules that connect the world of climate action intimately with the world of work.

Read the whole briefing [here](#).



TUC warns of Egyptian Government Greenwash

The TUC has [called on the British government](#) to hold the Egyptian regime to account during COP27 for its attacks on workers' rights to organise. In a statement published on 10 June the TUC said:

"The Egyptian trade union organisations affiliated to the ITUC - the Egyptian Federation of Independent Trade Unions and the Egyptian Democratic Labour Congress - have faced [repeated repression](#), with labour organisers forced to retire, limiting the unions' ability to function. ... Vital to tackling the climate emergency is the need for freedom of association and the rights of workers and communities to organise for change. Since seizing power, the Egyptian government has consistently demonstrated a disregard for human life and these fundamental freedoms. By hosting COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, the Egyptian government will have an unprecedented opportunity to greenwash its atrocious record in human rights"

Egyptian activists have raised their concerns [here](#).

Union Conference updates

UCU

UCU congress 2022 took place online from Weds 1st - Friday 3rd June. It's positive to see the number of environment and climate related motions that were put forward by regional committees and branches.

There were 7 environment and climate related motions in total, all of which were carried.

At Congress last year Motions 46 and 50 were carried, calling for establishment of an annual meeting and an advisory standing committee on climate emergency and environmental issues. In response to this, the Climate and Ecological Emergency Committee (CEEC) has been launched. The committee have been meeting online this year and are currently awaiting confirmation of a date for the CEEC's inaugural annual meeting, which should be determined by NEC this month.

The 7 motions carried at this year's congress will be priority areas for the CEEC to action and engage members on over the coming year, they will also provide key agenda items for the inaugural meeting of the committee.

For details of environment and climate related motions carried at UCU Congress 2022 please see: [UCU - Recruitment and campaigning motions Motions 59-65](#).

Meg Baker



UNISON

UNISON conference debated and agreed a detailed motion on the climate emergency and the challenge facing public services.

After we published a Report during COP26 on [Decarbonising UK Public Services](#) calling for £140 billion in government investment to enable public service to meet climate targets by retrofitting all buildings and moving to renewables as the main supplier of energy.

Conference

- committed to develop bargaining agendas for all UNISON's service areas, local government, Health, Utilities and Energy, to push employers to commit to policies to address the climate emergency and to adapt to the changes already happening
- noted that the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP), put the world on course for a catastrophic rise of 2.4C by the end of the century even if all its proposed actions were achieved.
- agreed that, all countries should revisit and strengthen the 2030 targets in their Nationally Determined Contributions by the end of 2022 to align with the 1.5C limit
- noted with disappointment that the UK COP26 presidency, led by Alok Sharma, refused to meet the trade union delegation ahead of and during the COP, ignoring the UK's Just Transition commitment, which can only be met with social dialogue and partnership "between governments and the representative organisations of workers and employers" with trade unions playing a central role
- noted the joint UNISON Scotland and Scottish TUC publication '[Climate hazards and resilience in the workplace](#)' which deals with the necessity to adapt workplaces to the hazards climate change already poses, as well as providing practical suggestions for further action.

Continued

Conference also noted the **UNISON Getting to Net Zero in Public Services: The Road to Decarbonisation** Report. This concluded that

- without significant and immediate government funding, public services will struggle to decarbonise.
- getting public services to net-zero needs £140billion government funding by 2035, without which public services would only be able to move slowly towards decarbonisation targets, taking resources from already stretched budgets, with disastrous consequences.

Conference reaffirmed that public and not private investment is the solution. Relying on private investment has already meant delay and increases taxes and the financial burden for those least able to pay and supported the key recommendations in the report

- the demand for new national public service climate social partnership approaches,
- campaigning for affordable and public ownership of energy and water,
- supporting green reps in our branches,
- developing educational materials,
- engaging with employers, service users and elected representatives to develop inclusive Just Transition boards for all public service sectors.

and play a key role in:

- a. The international and national policy debates about the best and fairest way of achieving decarbonisation;
- b. The civil society movements that will keep leaders and governments on track;
- c. The social dialogue and workplace negotiations needed to deliver just transition across all workplaces.

And mandated the National Executive Council to:

1. work closely with the ITUC, TUC, Scottish TUC, Welsh TUC, Irish Congress of Trade Unions on the roll out of the Glasgow Climate Pact (GCP) and the COP26 Coalition;
2. work with the TUC TUSDAC (Trade Union Sustainable Development Action Committee) to develop and campaign for public service sector climate plans and funding for the climate transition;
3. promote UNISON's net zero report: engaging and consulting on our key findings and recommendations with the government, public service employers and relevant community and private contracted organisations delivering public services;
4. support a green bargaining and negotiating agenda by introducing a rule change to enable green reps to sit on branch committees and nationally campaign for facility time for green branch reps;
5. update guidance for branches and green reps with case studies of good practice initiatives, funding opportunities and examples of successfully negotiated decarbonisation and Just Transition plans;
6. work with service users, community, NGO and green alliances on public sector workplace climate policies as they are developed and announced, calling for greater public investment to secure a Just Transition;
7. support our Energy Service Group Executive to promote decarbonisation of the energy system so it is affordable for all, and ensuring a Just Transition for energy members;
8. encourage public bodies to support a sustainable transition away from meat and dairy farming in recognition of the massive contribution this industry makes to the Climate Emergency.
9. update training materials for branch and green reps to support their increasing responsibilities and roles;
10. arrange at least quarterly online national meetings of green reps and those signed up to the green network to share best practice and plans for activity.

UNISON is determined to be a Green union and to further develop its member and activist education programmes, its bargaining agenda and its campaigning in line with that ambition.

Stephen Smellie Branch Secretary UNISON South Lanarkshire



GMB

As ideas for a 'Green New Deal' have gained in popularity in recent years, the union membership has begun to respond; and this was clearly revealed at annual Congress in June.

The union's governing body - the Central Executive Council (CEC) – has final say over what motions make it to Congress, with rulings to support, to support with qualification, to oppose, or to withdraw. Branches (and their delegates) can still move motions in defiance of said rulings, but they do so with the likelihood that such motions will fall when put to a vote.

For example, motions calling for the union to adopt a stronger position on climate change; including advocating for a Green New Deal, and changing its target of net zero carbon emissions from 2050 to 2030, were opposed. Despite this however, several motions were moved against the CEC's wishes. The full number of similar motions that were submitted to the CEC is unknown, but Southern Region alone rejected three; which indicates grassroots concern for the union to change tack on climate change.

A motion moved by Glasgow Central APEX Branch, which represents Glasgow's cleansing workers, noted the support offered to them by climate activists during their 2021 strike, which took place during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in the city. This show of solidarity between workers and climate activists is a powerful and informative example of how climate campaigners can build broad coalitions to further our cause.

Another motion, which explicitly called for the target of net zero carbon emissions to be reduced from 2050 to 2030, was not so far from passing in the Congress hall despite being opposed by the CEC. Motions opposed by the CEC rarely (if ever) get passed, so this significant show of support felt indicative of a changing tide of opinion; even those representing members in industries not normally associated with climate activism. GMB could well be in motion.

*Alex Brent, Branch Secretary GMB South London Universities
and co-founder of GMB for a Green New Deal*

GMB

GJA at Glastonbury

Greta Thunberg wasn't the only climate campaigner to get to the festival this year. The Greener Jobs Alliance sent a server team with the Workers Beer Company. Our team of ten did a fantastic job in the Tolpuddle Bar and raised over £1,800 for our work this year.

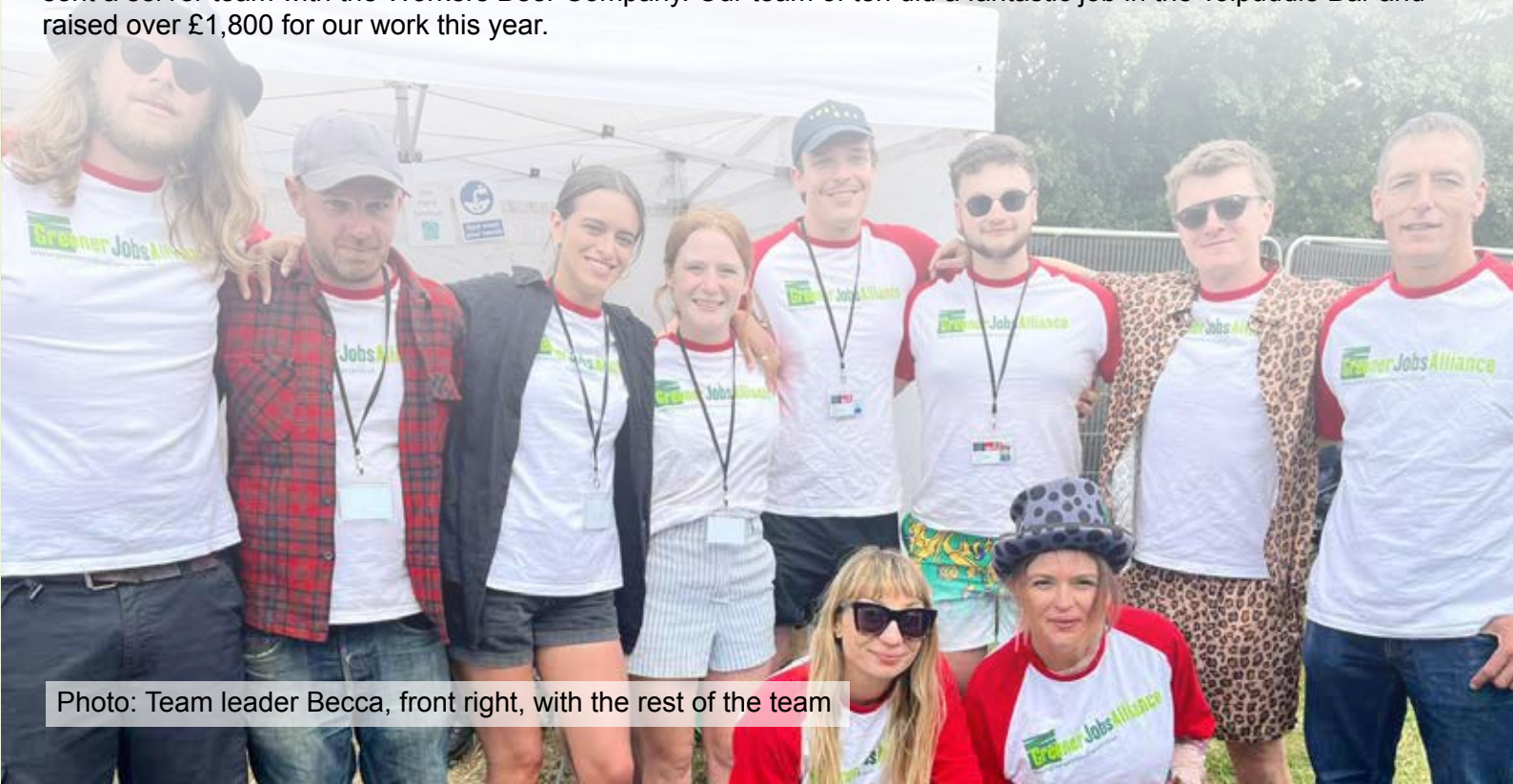


Photo: Team leader Becca, front right, with the rest of the team

Car Free July



As an interviewee on PM said in June “We’ve got two cars at the moment, but we’ll be getting rid of one and I’ll be biking to work a lot more often”.

With petrol and diesel prices almost doubling in a year - and likely to get even more expensive while the war in Ukraine and attendant sanctions last - fossil fuel vehicles will become increasingly unaffordable. This year’s **Car Free July** is a timely initiative to reduce car use to an unavoidable minimum, saving carbon and saving money at the same time.

The Best Democracy Money can buy

“ExxonMobil gave Policy Exchange \$30,000 in 2017. The think tank went on to recommend the creation of a new anti-protest law targeting the likes of Extinction Rebellion, which became the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022”.

As SNP MP Alyn Smith put it,

“He who pays the piper calls the tune.”

From **Open Democracy**.



Photo: www.flickr.com/photos/matthrkac/

Subscribe to the GJA Newsletter



Donate to the GJA

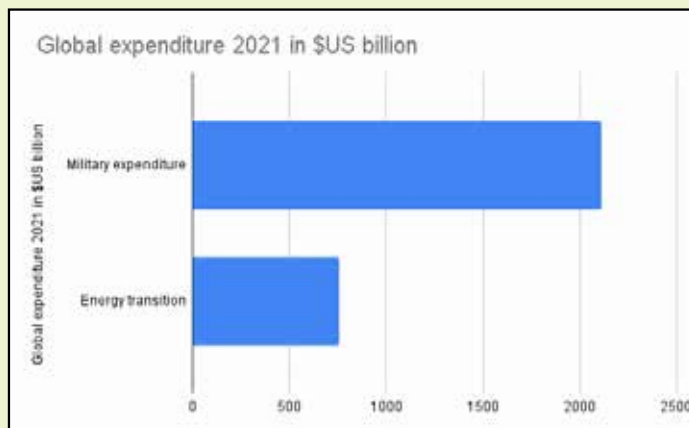


Green Bites

Graphic of the month

That’s the way the money goes...

Figures for energy expenditure from **Bloomberg**, which notes that this level of investment overall needs to triple for the next three years to draw level with military spending, then double again between 2025 and 2030 to be on track for Paris targets.



Statistics of the month

40%

of developing country emissions come from exports to developed countries

£5.7 billion

The amount we will be subsidising new investment in North Sea Oil and Gas by up to 2025 as a result of Sunak’s tax reliefs on it

Supporting the Greener Jobs Alliance

The GJA is a loose coalition of organisations involved in climate change work.

We wish to make it clear that the views expressed in our publications and activities do not necessarily reflect the position of all the organisations whom we work with.

We will always seek to make that clear by listing the organisations that have specifically signed up to a particular initiative.